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NAACP

**West Virginia
NAACP**

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The West Virginia State Conference Branches of the NAACP strongly opposes Governor Justice's appointment of Delegate Jill Upson to the position of executive director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs. The NAACP believes that the Governor's appointment was based on Delegate Upson's politics and not her qualifications. The NAACP feels as though this political appointment undermines the HHOOMA and is a slight to the minority citizens of West Virginia.

The Governors claim that the NAACP's opposition to the appointment of Delegate Upson to the executive director's of HHOOMA is based on partisan politics is off based. The NAACP is a nonpartisan civil rights organization, whose membership is made up of all political persuasions. The NAACP has always stood on the side of political, economic and social justice regardless of political party affiliation.

The NAACP will always speak truth to power when we see the government not looking out for the general welfare of its citizen. It is our rights as citizens to hold the government accountable when we feel that it has committed an unjust act that could be detrimental to the general welfare of the people. Not appointing a qualified individual to the executive director's position of the HHOOMA shows a lack of interest in the plight of many West Virginian's.

Unfortunately the Governor's questionable appointment of an executive director to the HHOOMA exposes other issues of implicit biases when it comes to dealing with West Virginia's African American population. The following are some of the things that NAACP has observed coming from this governor:

1. Insensitivity to Blacks as displayed on the campaign trail.
2. Indifference to the challenges of Blacks as evidenced by the lack of oversight of the HHOMA for the last couple of years.
3. Disrespect for African American institutions as evidenced by his statement about the NAACP.

The NAACP believe that the HHOOMA could be a vital contributor in addressing poverty, substance abuse, and other determinants of health and economic development and many other issues throughout rural, suburban and urban communities across the state. The NAACP has a vested interest in making sure the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs succeed. That is why we believe that it is important to appoint a qualified individual as the executive director of HHOOMA.

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